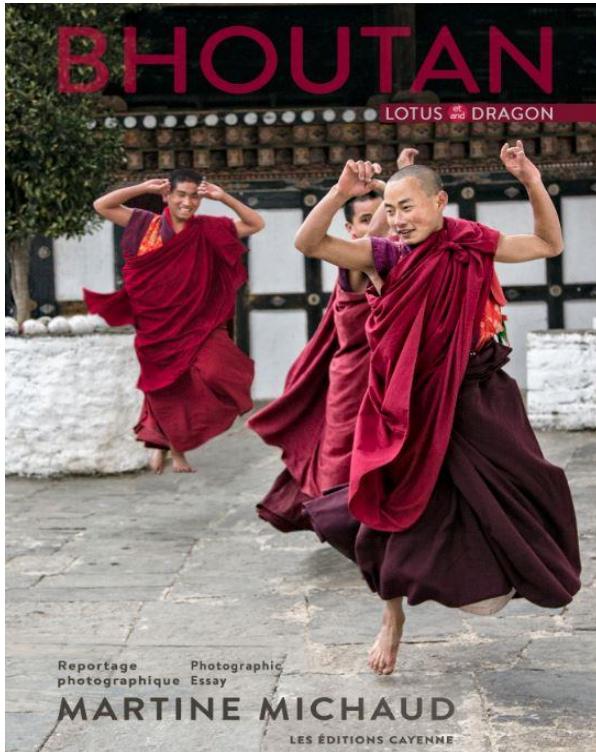


Press Release
For immediate release

**Martine Michaud introduces her beautiful book
BHOUTAN, LOTUS ET/AND DRAGON**



**On sale March 20, 2015
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS**

Montréal, March 13, 2015 – Indefatigable traveller **Martine Michaud** has been taking photographs for many years, signing her works Mishô. Long attracted by Bhutan, the landlocked country between India and Tibet, the photographer finally visited there twice between November 2012 and October 2013. Camera in hand, she criss-crossed the country, photographing what gives the country its charm: its warm and welcoming people, the magnificent mountains, the fields and rice paddies, the dizzy-making roads, the temples and monasteries perched high above the deep valleys, its customs and traditions.

"The people, the landscapes and the architecture never cease to amaze anyone who ventures there. Bhutan has taught me to see otherwise, to look in a more thoughtful, more meditative way than before," writes Martine Michaud in **BHOUTAN, LOTUS AND DRAGON**, a photographic essay of her experience, published by **Les Éditions Cayenne**, in its "Traces" collection.

A world leader for its proactive environmental protection initiatives, Bhutan measures its richness in an original way through the Gross National Happiness (GNH) index, which is based on four pillars: responsible and sustainable economic development, protection of the Bhutanese culture, preservation of the environment, and good State government. There are no traffic lights and tobacco is banned.

Martine Michaud's photographs succeed in capturing the quiet happiness of the Bhutanese, the majesty of the landscapes and the rich traditions. The photo captions and texts are those of the author. In other, longer texts, she expands on her vision of the country and its people.

The book includes a preface by **Steven Guilbeault**, co-founder and Senior Director of Équiterre; a postscript by **Danielle Fournier**, poet, writer, and Literary Manager at l'Hexagone; and a foreword by **Sylvain Campeau**, poet, art critic, essayist and exhibition curator. All the texts are in French and English.

From Bhoutan to the African continent

Martine Michaud is also on the brink of undertaking a new adventure that will take her to the African continent. From April 10-30th, she will be visiting Kenya and Uganda at the invitation of Wanda Bedard, President of the 60 million girls Foundation (www.60milliongirls.org).

The Foundation has been supporting educational projects for the most vulnerable and marginalized girls in developing countries since 2006. Its name comes from the fact that, every year, more than 60 million girls around the world are not in school. Since its start, the Foundation has invested more than \$2 million in 14 countries.

Martine Michaud will take part in a humanitarian visit that will check the progress of projects under way. She will be documenting in photos the projects supported by the Foundation and the daily life of the girls who benefit from those projects. In Kenya, Wanda Bedard and Martine Michaud will visit the secondary school for Oleleshwa girls, a \$300,000 project undertaken in 2013 and financed in collaboration with Free the Children. In Uganda, they will visit three schools in the south-west of the country where the Foundation, in partnership with the Nyaka organization, offers free instruction to the poorest children. They will also visit the Grandmother Network formed by Nyaka to come to the help of children, for the most part girls, whose parents died from AIDS.

About Martine Michaud

Born in New Brunswick, Martine Michaud studied Sociology, the Humanities and Opera before she began teaching literature and theatre at the college level. Since 2007, she has devoted herself exclusively to photography and the visual arts. She is most interested in societies that have maintained their strong national culture despite globalization. Her photographic work includes reportages and portraits, as well as more abstract photocompositions produced in a digital darkroom. Her photos, signed Mishô, have regularly been on display to the public in several solo or group exhibitions. A member of SOCAN, the UDA and the AME-ART group (artists of Mile-End), she lives and works in Montréal.

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www.mishophoto.com

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